

This is Bilk 29 / May 1989 / Address: Ulrich Magin, Stuhlbruderhofstr. 4, 6704 Mutterstadt, West Germany. Subscription: 15 German Mark per annum.

BEHEMOT:

● Nahuel Huapi, Argentina: The Hessisch-Niedersächsische Allgemeine (Apr. 7) and the Luxemburger Wort (LW, Apr. 8, p.26) had an article by Esteban Bayer on the lake monster of the Nahuel Huapi. The lake is situated near the tourist resort of Bariloche and has been the haunt of a monster for decades. The locals call it monster, "the hide" or "Nahuelito" (little Nahuel). It has a length varying between 5 and 50 metres, and is described as a gigantic water serpent with fins and humps, or as a swan with a snake's head, an upturned boat or a floating log. It surfaces only in summer, when the lake is as calm as a millpond. It can be observed, because there are sudden waves and much splashing. The Indians of Patagonia had legends about a creature without head, legs and tail - a formless mass, like the original Kraken. Locals believe their monster is the last surviving dinosaur, or a result of secret nuclear testing by scientists under the regime of General J.D. Peron. Others think it is a secret submarine. Scientists who have investigated the phenomenon believe it is only a mirage. The monster was last seen in March by tourists. It was silly season in Argentina, being the end of the summer, and the story made front-page headlines in most newspapers. Several movie films taken of the thing were shown in the countries evening news on TV, showing wakes on the otherwise calm surface of the lake. I think Burton also mentions the Nahuel Huapi beast, as does Ulrich Dunkel, a German author on sea monsters. Here we have an animal closely resembling Nessie, with a elements of the mythical landscape described by Meurger - the submarine (which slowly replaces the lake serpent on a worldwide scale), the Nazi scientists, the local legends (which refer to "el cuero", the hide, a shapeless island-beast already described by J.L. Borges, the famous Argentinian poet), the upturned boat, the floating tree trunk, etc.

● Australia: To continue with the "mythical landscape", the following comes from Australia and closely echoes European legends. Somewhere in a pond beneath a waterfall in the Northern Territories, Almudj, the rainbow-serpent, who created lakes, mountains and gorges during dreamtime. It still can be seen as a rainbow in the sky. Almudj lives in dark ponds and may not be disturbed. Stanley Breeden, who wrote an article for Geo (March 1989: 166 - 82: "Ein Schatz ohne Erben"), was shown such a pool by his aborigine guide, Kipirigi. He told Breeden not to swim in the pool or throw stones into it, or the snake would wake up and bring about thunderstorms. He said some time ago an archaeologist, after hearing this warning, had thrown stones into the pool. A little time later, there was a tremendous thunderstorm that destroyed the white man's camp, even though it was the dry period. The same legend is told of many German lakes: a stone thrown into them will wake up the lake spirit, a serious flooding or storms will result from this breach of taboo.

● Venezuela: I had some notes about the sighting of a small dinosaur on the rocky tower of Auyan-Tepui in 1955. This sighting is reprinted in an interesting book by Uwe George: Inseln in der Zeit. Gruner + Jahr: Hamburg, 1988, on p. 130. On p. 199, he gives additional information: It seems that about 1988, three young scientists from Terramar reached Shangri La-Valley on the Auyan-Tepui. On a dry mudbed they discovered large three-toed prints, actually resembling the prints of bipedal dinosaurs. The only other possibility would be a Tapir, which, according to George, a respected geologist, would be just as unlikely. Alejandro Laime, the 1955 witness, had reportedly seen small plesiosaurs.

● April Fools: Today, a British tabloid, had a "grainy 'exclusive' picture of London Zoo's latest attraction - a brontosaurus called Pizza" on April 1st (Observer, Apr. 2, p.2). Die Welt (Bonn, Apr. 1) reported that scientists had discovered a dragon's skull after an earth tremor near Königswinter (the site of the Drachenfels, or dragon's rock, where legend says a dragon once lived). The site was fenced off after the skull had been discovered by hiking senior citizens, the find being too heavy to be moved. The paper said trees would be felled to make place for machinery to remove the skull, and expressed the hope that treasure could be found nearby. The article is illustrated by a doctored photo showing a tyrannosaurus skull in a German forest.

● Bibliography: A. E. Wilder Smith: Evolution im Kreuzverhör (Hänssler Verlag: Stuttgart 1983, pp.154/155) is a creationist book that mentions the Loch Ness monster as a possible surviving dinosaur. It also refers to the 1977 carcass

off New Zealand (a decomposed shark). Has anyone investigated the influence of creationism on cryptozoology yet? • Sonntag Aktuell, March 26, p.25, has an article on tourism at Loch Ness. • Fortean Times 51 has been published. It includes many fine articles on Swedish subs, the lizard man, the Cefn Cave dragon of Wales, Black Sea sea serpents, an essay by Meurger on the Norwegian sea serpent and a review of Meurger's book. Address: FT, Mansfield Road 96, London NW3 2HX, UK. • I also recommend the excellent Nessletter, which is always full of interesting news & views & gossip from all those involved in the search. Address: R.R. Hepple, 7 Huntshildford, St Johns Chapel, Bishop Auckland, Co Durham, DL13 1RQ, UK. • Champ Channels, Joe Zarzynski's newsletter, is now being published in a new format, 4 issues per annum, with 4 - 10 pages, for\$ 10 foreign, \$ 9 in the USA. Vol.6, Nr. 1 has just been published, full of interesting stuff, such as the alleged discovery of Champ eggs at the lake. Address: PO Box 2134, Wilton, New York 12866, USA.

USC:

- Lake Champlain: I've just told you about the secret submarine in Nahuel Huapi, a monster lake. Champ Cannels, vol.6, no. 1, 1989, p.2, has a report about the detection "of some sort of large aquatic object underwater... perhaps a submarine, a submerged foreign object of some sort, or something else" It was detected by Jack O'Keefe and Jim Kennard in early August 1988. Their depth sounder recorded a 50 ft long and 6 ft wide form near the lake bottom.
- Irish Sea: The Daily Post (March 7., p.8) reported the last of a growing number of USC incidents in the Irish Sea. Usually, some foreign submarine becomes entangled in a fishermen's net, and, unable to escape, sinks the trawler, if the captain is not quick enough to cut the cables. In contrast to the Swedish hysteria, real submarines, mainly NATO- and East Bloc ones spying each other, seem to be involved. A Belgian trawler, Tjil Uilenspiegel, vanished 30 miles west of Blackpool. Over the last eight years, 17 boats have disappeared in the region. The German news magazine had an article about these going-ons on Nov. 14, 1988, p.182, and I have repeatedly referred to it in Bilk. (credit: Janet Bord)
- Bornholm: This is a similar case, with probably a Polish or German sub involved. On April 4, a Danish trawler was dragged underwater by an unidentified submarine south of Bornholm - well, nearly so, as the crew cut the cables of the net and escaped. The trawler, of Neksö on Bornholm, was in international waters at the time, according to Ritzau, the Danish news agency. East Germany is carrying out manoeuvres in the very region at the moment. On March 30, 1988, three people died when a West German submarine was caught in the nets of the Danish trawler "Anne Katherine" and sunk it.

MARINE LIFE:

- Whales: - 17 m sperm-whale stranded in Belgium (SaudiGazette/SG, 19.2.,4g) - more than 500 dead dolphins within 48 hours stranded at French Atlantic coast (LW,4.3,p.2) - March 10: Punta Arenas, Chile: 100 dead whales stranded (Neue Zürcher Zeitung,12.3.,9d; Frankfurter Allgemeine, 11.3.,9f; Süddeutsche Zeitung,13.3.,11c; SG,12.3.,7cd & 16.3.,4g; Arab News/AN, 16.3.,16) - A 4 m young whale beached in Cuba (NZZ,26.3.,7d) • sharks: - 2 tonnes-thredher shark caught of Elba, Italy, following shark panic (Rheinpfalz/Rhpf, 9.3.) - 27 year-old surfer attacked by shark off Adelaide, Australia (NZZ,12.3.,9d; LW, 11.3.,2) • Crocodile: A giant crocodile, more than 7 metres long, one metre wide and over 100 years old, has killed its 13th victim in South Malaysia (Blick, 24.2.; LW, 24.2.,p.2)

FORTEANA:

- rain of fish: It rained sardines on February 5 in Ipswich in the Australian state of Queensland, 30 miles inland from Brisbane. Locals said they had heard noises like hail coming down, then residents were pelted by scores of squirming fish. Police officials said it was no fishy story, but had really happend. Scientists think updrafts took the sardines from shallow water into the atmosphere. (The Times, Feb 8,p.9a; Rhpf, Feb 8) • ghost islands: German scientists have discovered that 2 islands in the Antarctic mapped in 1961 do not exist - they had probably been icebergs (AN,9.3.,16e; SG,12.3.,6g)

ERIK BECKJORD:

- Erik Beckjord has informed me that his National Cryptozoological Society has opened the Cryptozoological Museum, at 18711 Pacific Coast Highway, Malibu, California 90265. The event was described in the Los Angeles Times (Feb 4) - most of the exhibits are photographs of monsters, mainly Bigfoot and aquatic ones. Beckjord also plans a new expedition to Scottish lochs this summer. For all visiting California, the Museum will be a nice place to see.